Senate rejects Nixon's testimony

F Post 1/13/75

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Intelligence Committee decided Friday to reject former President Nixon's offer to testify before the committee on grounds that he imposed too many conditions.

"The committee found those conditions unacceptable and turned (the offer) down," chairman Frank Church, D-Idaho, said.

According to Church, the proposal submitted by Nixon's lawyers specified that he not testify under oath, that he be interviewed only by the ranking members of the committee and that he reserve the right to assert executive privilege.

"He would be in effective control," Church said.

Church said the committee had rejected the offer without dissent.

Church, who Friday filed papers forming a committee to explore a presidential candidacy, said the committee has not concluded its public hearings.

Earlier this year Church said he would not let presidential politics interfere with his work as chairman.

On Friday he said he now is prepared to resign his chairmanship if he decides to run for the presidency.

Church said committee lawyers were continuing negotiations with Nixon's attorneys but there appears little chance the former President will ever appear before the committee.